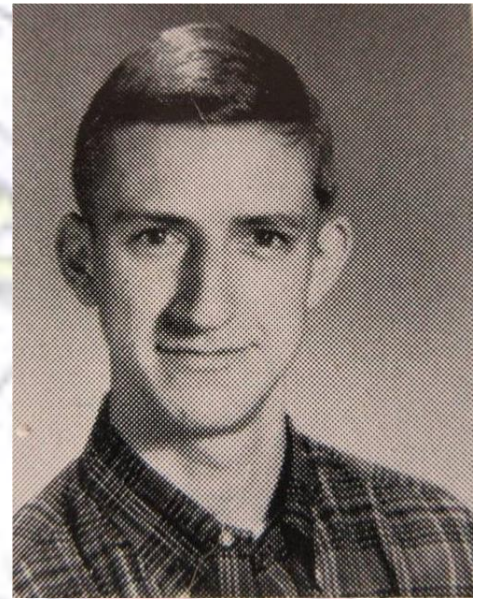


Richard Earl Harrison, T-66

25 February 1947 – 20 May 1967

(aged 20)



A Memphis serviceman who tried to keep his family posted on Vietnam action from day to day was killed in combat there Saturday morning, his parents learned yesterday.

Specialist 4 Richard E. Harrison, 20, of 1112 Frayser Blvd. was hit by hostile fire while on reconnaissance patrol north of his home base of Pleiku.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harrison of the Frayser address and was engaged to be married to Sandra Poe of Memphis. He was the 69th casualty from Shelby County in the war.

Specialist Harrison's sister, Janice Harrison, said he wrote home almost daily and reported many activities of his unit.

"He seemed to think we'd feel better if we knew exactly what was going on instead of wondering." She said, "But he always kept his letters cheerful."

She said young Harrison, a machine-gunner, was frequently in heated combat in the area where troops have met heavy resistance during the past several weeks.

He was usually on the scouting patrols, she said, "looking for the Communists."

Specialist Harrison had been in Vietnam since the early part of December and was due to complete his tour of duty there about the same time this year. The family said he had been anxious to get home.

Born in Memphis, he was a student at Tech and a graduate of West Side High School and attended Memphis State University for a year before drafting into the Army last July.

He was a member of the Frayser Baptist Church.

Besides his parents and sister, he leaves two other sisters, Judy Harrison and June Harrison of the Frayser address; his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. McCaig of Humboldt TN, and his paternal grandmother Mrs. H. E. Tavaner.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Tuesday, May 23, 1967.

